(c) whether the provision of ex-gratia payment is there in the ITBP as is in the case of other police forces, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Under the Central Benevolent (Risk Premium) Fund of the ITBP, widows/next of kin of deceased ITBP employees are paid at the rate of Rs. 400/- p.m. with effect from 7-1-87. The widows/next of kin of ITBP employees who died after 1-1-90 are paid at the rate of Rs. 500/- p.m. Payments to widows are withheld in those cases in which certificates to the effect that they are alive and that they are not married again have not been received.

(b) Cases of appointment on compassionate grounds in respect of kins of deceased ITBP employees are considered in accordance with the instructions issued by the Department of Personnel and Training of the Government of India in this regard.

(c) Provision of ex-gratia payment is available in the ITBP.

Delay in clearing of Financial Claims of Ex-CISF Staff

4446. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending with Government with regard to retirement benefits, compensation and other financial claims by ex-CISF staff;

(b) the reasons for delay in sanctioning the claims or clearing the claims after sanctioning; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to expedite the processing of all pending cases of ex-CISF staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) 157 cases are pending.

(b) The main reasons for dealy in finalisation of pension claims are non-receipt of relevant documents from the pensioners, non-completion of service documents and verification of service, refixation of pay in the revised pay scales, delay in verification of Army service prior to civil employment, non-availability of various nominations and pendency of disciplinary and vigilance proceedings.

(c) Instructions have been issued to take necessary action to clear the pending financial claims of ex-CISF personnel expeditiously.

Cases regarding freedom fighters' pension received from Assam

4447. SHRI BHADRESHWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petitions pending with Government for freedom fighters' pension received from Assam;

(b) the reasons for delay in clearing these petitions; and

(c) by when Government are likely to clear these petitions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) All applications received from Assam upto the prescribed date (31-3-82) were considered and decisions communicated to the applicants. However, where applicants, whose claims had not been accepted, furnish additional evidence, the case is reviewed. This is a continuing process.

Expenditure by the Ministers

4448. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: